

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 707

To provide monthly vouchers to members of the Armed Forces serving in overseas operations, or hospitalized due to a disease or injury incurred as a result of service in such operations, that a member may transfer to another person to permit the person to mail, without charge, correspondence and small parcels to members of the Armed Forces.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. CHILDERS, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIND, Ms. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MASSA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McMAHON, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. TANNER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BOCCIERI, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. BERRY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. ARCURI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

# A BILL

To provide monthly vouchers to members of the Armed Forces serving in overseas operations, or hospitalized due to a disease or injury incurred as a result of service in such operations, that a member may transfer to another person to permit the person to mail, without charge, correspondence and small parcels to members of the Armed Forces.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Home Front to Heroes  
 5 Postal Benefits Act”.

## 6 **SEC. 2. POSTAL BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR SENDING FREE** 7 **MAIL TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES** 8 **SERVING IN CERTAIN OVERSEAS OPER-** 9 **ATIONS AND HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS.**

10 (a) AVAILABILITY OF POSTAL BENEFITS.—The Sec-  
 11 retary of Defense, in consultation with the United States  
 12 Postal Service, shall provide for a program under which  
 13 postal benefits are provided during fiscal year 2010 to  
 14 qualified individuals in accordance with this section.

15 (b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—In this section, the  
 16 term “qualified individual” means a member of the Armed  
 17 Forces described in subsection (a)(1) of section 3401 of

1 title 39, United States Code, who is entitled to free mail-  
2 ing privileges under such section.

3 (c) POSTAL BENEFITS DESCRIBED.—

4 (1) VOUCHERS.—The postal benefits provided  
5 under the program shall consist of such coupons or  
6 other similar evidence of credit (in this section re-  
7 ferred to as a “voucher”) to permit a person pos-  
8 sessing the voucher to make a qualified mailing to  
9 any qualified individual without charge using the  
10 Postal Service. The vouchers may be in printed, elec-  
11 tronic, or such other format as the Secretary of De-  
12 fense, in consultation with the Postal Service, shall  
13 determine to be appropriate.

14 (2) QUALIFIED MAILING.—In this section, the  
15 term “qualified mailing” means the mailing of a sin-  
16 gle mail piece which—

17 (A) is first-class mail (including any  
18 sound- or video-recorded communication) not  
19 exceeding 13 ounces in weight and having the  
20 character of personal correspondence or parcel  
21 post not exceeding 15 pounds in weight;

22 (B) is sent from within an area served by  
23 a United States post office; and

24 (C) is addressed to any qualified indi-  
25 vidual.

1           (3) COORDINATION RULE.—Postal benefits  
2       under the program are in addition to, and not in lieu  
3       of, any reduced rates of postage or other similar  
4       benefits which might otherwise be available by or  
5       under law, including any rates of postage resulting  
6       from the application of section 3401(b) of title 39,  
7       United States Code.

8       (d) NUMBER OF VOUCHERS.—A member of the  
9       Armed Forces shall be eligible for one voucher for every  
10      month (or part of a month) during fiscal year 2010 in  
11      which the member is a qualified individual. Subject to sub-  
12      section (f)(2), a voucher earned during fiscal year 2010  
13      may be used after the end of such fiscal year.

14      (e) TRANSFER OF VOUCHERS.—A qualified indi-  
15      vidual may transfer a voucher to a member of the family  
16      of the qualified individual, a nonprofit organization, or any  
17      other person selected by the qualified individual for use  
18      to send qualified mailings to the qualified individual or  
19      other qualified individuals.

20      (f) LIMITATIONS ON USE; DURATION.—A voucher  
21      may not be used—

22           (1) for more than one qualified mailing, wheth-  
23       er that mailing is a first-class letter or a parcel; or

24           (2) after the expiration date of the voucher, as  
25       designated by the Secretary of Defense.

1 (g) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the  
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
3 (in consultation with the Postal Service) shall prescribe  
4 such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the pro-  
5 gram, including—

6 (1) procedures by which vouchers will be pro-  
7 vided or made available in timely manner to quali-  
8 fied individuals; and

9 (2) procedures to ensure that the number of  
10 vouchers provided or made available with respect to  
11 any qualified individual complies with subsection (d).

12 (h) TRANSFERS OF FUNDS TO POSTAL SERVICE.—

13 (1) BASED ON ESTIMATES.—The Secretary of  
14 Defense shall transfer to the Postal Service, out of  
15 amounts available to carry out the program and in  
16 advance of each calendar quarter during which post-  
17 al benefits may be used under the program, an  
18 amount equal to the amount of postal benefits that  
19 the Secretary estimates will be used during such  
20 quarter, reduced or increased (as the case may be)  
21 by any amounts by which the Secretary finds that  
22 a determination under this subsection for a prior  
23 quarter was greater than or less than the amount fi-  
24 nally determined for such quarter.

1           (2) BASED ON FINAL DETERMINATION.—A  
2       final determination of the amount necessary to cor-  
3       rect any previous determination under this section,  
4       and any transfer of amounts between the Postal  
5       Service and the Department of Defense based on  
6       that final determination, shall be made not later  
7       than six months after the expiration date of the final  
8       vouchers issued under the program.

9           (3) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—All estimates  
10      and determinations under this subsection of the  
11      amount of postal benefits under the program used in  
12      any period shall be made by the Secretary of De-  
13      fense in consultation with the Postal Service.

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